



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Hiroshi SHIBATA

Serial No.: 09/846,991

Group Art Unit: 2141

Date Filed: May 1, 2001

Examiner: Kristie Shingles

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DATA COMMUNICATIONS CAPABLE OF AUTOMATICALLY SENDING A MAINTENANCE REQUEST

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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August 25, 2006

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Commissioner for Patents
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AMENDMENT

Sir:

This Amendment is submitted concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 in response to the final Office Action dated April 27, 2006 and the Advisory Action dated August 7, 2006, in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the **Listing of Claims** section which begins on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 18 of this paper.